


**Figure 17:** Inhale, breath out. Relax, this is a lot of info. But you can come back to it a number of times and get more out of it. It's important to see that the tree is planted on a mound. This also shows the root ratios—sandy soil has roots up to three times wider than the Canopy radius (Cr). In clay, it's 1.5 times the Cr. Mulch beyond the dripline.

 **Bob sez:** *Alas, if you have gophers, a big hole is needed to allow for a protective wire basket. The bigger the basket, the more roots you'll protect from these hungry little devils. Be sure the upper edge of the basket sticks at least six inches above the soil and mulch to keep nocturnally wandering gophers from climbing inside your secured perimeter. For the wire basket, simply dig a hole two to three feet deep and wide, put the basket in and fill the hole again—just like the Army!*

Rake the finished mound to look like a gentle knoll.

After planting, soak the entire mound once or twice, then mulch the mound and beyond about 4 inches deep, making sure that the mulch stays at least 6 to 12 inches away from the trunk.

Incidentally, the greater the drainage, the easier it is to grow plants without irrigation. My theory is that the enhanced drainage allows the roots to

quickly and easily follow the dwindling moisture

supply down through the earth of the mound. Heavy clay soils are so stiff they retard the growth of roots, and the moisture can slip away faster than the roots can keep up with.

**Carpet Mulching...**

Hey, if it's good enough to go under your recliner in your living room, why not use it outdoors?

**Knock Back Weeds!**

My garden has natural-looking pathways requir-